

Wealth Is For: Establishment Of Prayer And Payment Of Zakaat

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Allaah Sent Down Wealth In Order That The Prayer Be Established And The Zakaat Be Paid

This heading may appear strange, but this strangeness will be removed when we know that it has been extracted from a saying of the Prophet (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam):

"Indeed Allaah, the Most High, said: "We have sent down the wealth for the Prayer to be established, and Zakaat to be given, and if the son of Aadam had a valley he would love to have a second, and if he had two valleys he would love to have a third, and nothing will fill the belly of the son of Aadam except dust, then Allaah will forgive whoever repents to Him." ¹

It will help our understanding of this noble hadeeth to know that the purpose behind the creation of man and jinn is the worship of Allaah, the One free and far removed from all imperfections and the Most High, nothing else, as He the Most perfect says:

"I have not created the Jinn and men except that they should worship me." [Soorah adh-Dhaariyaat (51):56]

So everything else is merely a means to be used by jinn and men to achieve obedience to Allaah, everything, such as food, drink, riding-beast, marriage and wealth. So wealth was not sent down except for the fulfilment of the worship of Allaah, so that his body can be strengthened through food and drink and thus enable him to establish the Prayer.

He may also use it to marry, and marriage is also "half of the religion" ² or "half of eemaan." ³ Marriage helps the servant to restrain his glance, and to protect his private parts. So if the married servant stands to pray to Allaah, the Most High, then his humility and attentiveness is stronger, and his heart more heedful of Allaah, the Most High, since failure to restrain one's glance and protect one's private parts kills off his humility and attentiveness.

The Muslim may also use his wealth to cure himself so that his body is strengthened and so his performance of the Prayer will be better than that of the sick.

¹ Reported by Ahmad and at-Tabaraanee in al-Kabeer from Aboo Waaqid (radiyallaahu anhu), and it occurs in Saheehul-Jaami' (no.1777)

² As he (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "When the servant marries then he has completed half of the religion. Then let him fear Allaah with regard to the remaining half." [Reported by al-Baihaqee in Shu'abul-Eemaan, and it is found in Saheehul-Jaami' (no.443).

³ As he (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said: "Whoever marries has completed half of eemaan, so let him fear Allaah with regard to the remaining half." [Saheehul-Jaami' (no.6024)]

Thus wealth which has been sent down is either for the establishment of the Prayer, or to assist in that, or for the payment of the Zakaat and to help those in need.

However the son of Aadam is ignorant, or pretends to be ignorant, to the point that if he had a whole valley of wealth then he would love to have a second. Then if he attained what he hoped for and acquired a second, he would love to have a third.

The son of Aadam has forgotten the reason for which wealth was sent down, which was the establishment of Prayer and payment of the Zakaat, and instead involved himself with large business concern and has become drowned in the sea of materialism. All of this due to the first valley so how will he manage to attain the second and the third?

How much concentration and humility (khushoo') he misses in the Prayer due to this excessive toil, seeking to attain something extra in this world whilst losing a huge amount of good.

Then the matter does not stop at him losing khushoo' alone, rather it extends into him missing the Prayers. So you see those who miss the Prayers due to their preoccupation with amassing wealth, forgetting that wealth is only for the Prayer and for the Zakaat, and Allaah's Messenger (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

"If I had the like of (mount) Uhud in gold it would not please me that three days would pass me by and anything of it remained with me, except for something which I kept for payment of debt."⁴

Furthermore from the widespread afflictions is that you hear people giving religious verdicts that are pleasing to those preoccupied with wealth, and that is that it is permissible to combine all the five Prayers together, so they delay all the Prayers and pray them after 'Ishaa' and throw aside the Prayer times and related obligations.

Indeed there is no ability and no action except by the Will of Allaah.

⁴ Reported by al-Bukhaaree (Eng trans. 8/303/452) from Aboo Hurairah (radiyallaahu anhu)